

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 15th April 1899.

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Nil.		Nil.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI		CALCUTTA.			
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta ...	25,000	8th and 15th April, 1899.	
2	"Basumati" ...	Ditto ...	15,000	6th and 13th " "	
3	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	About 6,000	7th April, 1899.	
4	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	2,500	7th " "	
5	"Prativasi" ...	Ditto ...	3,600	10th " "	
6	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	7th " "	
7	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	8th " "	
8	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	1,000	27th March, "	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Chandrika" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	10th and 11th April, 1899.	
2	"Samvad Prabhakkar" ...	Ditto ...	2,000	8th, 10th and 11th April 1899.	
3	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	300	8th, 10th and 11th April 1899.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Calcutta ...	2,000	10th April, 1899.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	1,000	10th " "	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hablul Mateen" ...	Calcutta ...	800	10th April, 1899.	
2	"Mefta-hur-zafar" ...	Ditto ...	.....	8th " "	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Calcutta ...	300	6th April, 1899.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto ...	330	7th " "	
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>					
1	"Nusrat-ul-Islam" ...	Calcutta ...	500		
BENGALI.		BURDWAN DIVISION.			
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangabandhu" ...	Chandernagore ...	.....	7th April, 1899.	
2	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	600	8th " "	
3	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	235		
4	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	510		
5	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,350	7th April, 1899.	
6	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna ...	600	5th and 12th April, 1899.	
BENGALI.		PRESIDENCY DIVISION.			
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Berhampore, Murshidabad.	500	5th April, 1899.	
2	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	603	7th " "	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS—concluded.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIYA.	ORISSA DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	500		This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Sambad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	150		
3	"Uriya and Navasambad" ...	Ditto ...	376		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	400		
	HINDI.	PATNA DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	About 600		
	URDU.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	300		
	BENGALI.	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	300	5th April, 1899.	This paper is not regularly published for want of type.
2	"Kangal" ...	Cooch Behar ...	300	12th " "	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180		
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	.....	
	BENGALI	DACCA DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur ...	750	28th March, 1899.	
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ..	300		
3	Sikshak Suhrid ...	Dacca ...	.....	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal ...	400	11th April, 1899.	
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	1,011	3rd " "	
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	9th " "	
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur ...	.....	
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	500	8th " "	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	10th April, 1899.	
	BENGALI.	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla ...	550		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
	BENGALI.	ASSAM.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Paridarsak" ...	Sylhet ...	.....	
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar, Cachar ...	375	31st March, 1899.	

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th April complains against Babu Kedareswar Chakravarti, Sub-Inspector of Jaynagar thana, in the 24-Parganas district. In a case in which Prakasnath Dutta of Majilpur has been charged with severely assaulting Surgya Kumar Ghosh of Mayda,

HITAVADI,
April 7th, 1899.

The Sub-Inspector of the Jaynagar thana in the 24-Parganas district.

the Sub-Inspector is making unusual delay in the investigation. He is, moreover, making no enquiry into the charge of trespass and mischief preferred against the accused. The Sub-Inspector's brother is a servant of the accused's father, and that is most probably the cause of his procrastination.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

2. A correspondent of the *Faridpur Hitaishini* of the 28th March contradicts the statements which were made in a recent issue of the paper against the Munsif of Raiganj, Faridpur. (Report on Native Papers for 18th March, paragraph 8.)

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
March 28th, 1899.

The Munsif of Raiganj, Faridpur.

3. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 5th April says that the decision of the Government not to grant the prayer of the residents of the Saktipur outpost in the Murshidabad district, asking for the transfer of that portion of the Kandi munsifi which lies between the river

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
April 5th, 1899.

The question of a munsifi jurisdiction in the Murshidabad district.

Bhagirathi on the east and the river Babla on the west to the Berhampore munsifi, has been a great disappointment to the memorialists. The prayer was rejected on the trifling ground that it was inconvenient to change the existing boundary between the Kandi and Berhampore munsifis formed by the river Bhagirathi. But it is difficult to see what administrative inconvenience would be caused if the Babla instead of the Bhagirathi were made the boundary, not only between the two munsifis, but also between the two corresponding subdivisions. It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will order the Babla to be made the boundary between the two munsifis and subdivisions, and thereby remove the inconvenience which the residents referred to above suffer in the rainy season. His Honour may be informed that Mr. Taylor, the late Judge of Murshidabad, supported the people's prayer.

4. The *Basumati* of the 6th April is glad at Mr. Justice Jenkins's promotion to the Chief Justiceship of the Bombay High Court, but is sorry to lose an upright Judge like him on the Calcutta Bench. Mr. Jenkins has so

BASUMATI,
April 6th, 1899.

Mr. Justice Jenkins's promotion.

completely won the respect and confidence of the Calcutta public within the short period of his stay in the city, that everybody in Calcutta is sorry at the prospect of parting with him. It is to be hoped that his appointment to the leadership of the Bombay Bench will turn the fortunes of that Presidency.

5. In continuation of what it wrote in a previous issue (Report on Native Papers for 25th March 1899, paragraph 9), the *Hitavadi* of the 7th April writes that the name of the examinee in question is Vidya Prasad Bhaumik

HITAVADI,
April 7th, 1899.

A complaint in connection with the Mukhtarship Examination.

and not Durga Prasad, as previously stated. Durga Prasad is the examinee's father's name. The examinee's roll-number appears to be 1169. This is all the information that can at present be derived from the torn paper in the editor's possession. Let us hope that the authorities will cause an enquiry to be made into the matter. Let justice be done to the poor examinee.

6. The same paper complains of the conduct of the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum. In a recent case in which one Satyanath Mahapatra was accused of personating a revenue collector, the Deputy Commissioner

HITAVADI.

The Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum.

sentenced the accused to two years' imprisonment, while the highest sentence which the law prescribes for the offence is one year's imprisonment. The Judicial Commissioner, on appeal, has ordered a re-trial of the case by another competent Magistrate, on the ground that the Deputy Commissioner in this case acted both as Judge and prosecutor and passed a sentence which he

was not warranted by the law to pass. The writer draws the attention of the authorities to the conduct of the Deputy Commissioner, which shows that he is not at all fit for administering justice. He should be removed from the responsible post which he holds.

7. The same paper writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
April 7th, 1899.

Mr. Heard of Deoghur.

We have again to complain against Mr. Heard, Subdivisional Officer of Deoghur. There are five subdivisions in the Sonthal Parganas district which are never entrusted by the Government to the charge of Bengali Deputy Magistrates. We fail to understand why Bengali Deputy Magistrates should be held incompetent for the charge of a subdivision in the Sonthal Parganas. In our opinion a Bengali Deputy Magistrate is much better fitted than a European Deputy Magistrate for such a responsible post. The Subdivisional Officer in the Sonthal Parganas has to do civil as well as criminal work, and European Deputy Magistrates are not generally well fitted for civil administration. Take, for example, the case of Mr. Heard, who has shown utter incapacity for civil work. A partition suit came up for hearing in his Court. He appointed a commissioner for making the partition. The commissioner submitted a report, making an award, but the Court, as required by the Civil Procedure Code, did not pass final orders on it. The plaintiff in the partition suit got the commissioner's award enforced, but the defendant objected to the award, and Mr. Heard referred him to a Civil Court. But the Civil Court held that no civil suit could be entertained after the decree giving the award had been enforced. The suit was accordingly dismissed, and the defendant had to go without a remedy of any kind. It is said that Mr. Heard is always unwilling to try civil suits and always transfers them to the file of the lower Court. In those civil suits which the lower Court is not empowered to try and which Mr. Heard cannot but try himself, he betrays lamentable ignorance of the law. It is to be hoped that the higher authorities will no longer keep a high-handed and incompetent Magistrate like Mr. Heard in Deoghur and will post a Bengali Deputy Magistrate there. The Government wants a Magistrate in the Sonthal Parganas to be *ma-bap* to the people. But Mr. Heard is not a *ma-bap* official. His only business seems to be to tour about the subdivision and to punish people under section 290 of the Indian Penal Code. Mr. Heard's tour diary and return register require inspection. Let the complaints against Mr. Heard be enquired into and let justice be done.

HITAVADI.

8. The same paper complains that a police constable of Jalpaiguri and

A rape case in Jalpaiguri.

three others committed rape on two Nepalese women under the following circumstances. The two women with their brothers had to pass through Jalpaiguri and stayed there for the night. The two women before going to rest went to the river hard by for ablutions. Here they came across a police constable and a zamindar's chaprasi. The police constable arrested the women on the plea that they had committed an offence and took them to a neighbouring tin shed, saying that it was the police-station. Here these two fellows were joined by two others, and they all of them represented themselves as police officers and committed rape upon the two women, one after another. The accused carried on this unlawful intercourse the whole night, and in the morning decamped, leaving the two women weeping. Now, the tin shed belongs to a *sannyasi* who prepares his medicines in this hut. In the morning his servant came to open the doors of the hut and discovered what had taken place. The accused were all identified and hauled up before the Joint-Magistrate of Jalpaiguri, who found that the accused could be charged under section 376 of the Indian Penal Code, and as he was not empowered to try a case under that section, he referred the matter to the Deputy Commissioner, who, on the ground that the police had sent up the case under section 448, instructed the Joint-Magistrate to try the case himself. One of the accused has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment under section 417, and the police constable has been enlarged on a bail of Rs. 50.

It is to be hoped that the authorities will call for the record of the case and enquire why the Deputy Commissioner did not order the trial of the accused under section 376. The case is a painful one. Two women came to English territory from a foreign territory, and there their chastity was outraged by a

police constable with three accomplices. Six months' imprisonment is not certainly adequate punishment for such a serious offence.

(d)—Education.

9. The *Sanjivani* of the 8th April says that if there is anything upon which the British Government in India can pride itself, it is the introduction of high education into this country. But the self-same Government is now endeavouring to strike a blow at the high education of the people of India. The circular recently issued by the Director of Public Instruction, under the authority of the Government of Bengal, proposing to substitute examinations in Agriculture for the Middle Vernacular and Middle English Examinations, is calculated to deprive the Bengalis of all opportunities of educating themselves. A strong protest should be made against the Government's proposal. The public bodies in Bengal should not sleep over the question.

SANJIVANI,
April 8th, 1899.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

10. The *Som Prakash* of the 27th March complains that though the virulence of the plague is greater in the northern than in the southern part of Calcutta, no endeavour is being made by the Municipality to cleanse the wards in the northern quarter with as much promptness as was evinced last year when there was only a false cry of plague. Is the Municipality or the Government to blame for this state of things? It is said that the Lieutenant-Governor visited the native quarter the other day in company with the Chairman. But the result of his inspection is not known. The scavenging and watering, in particular, of the northern wards are performed in a most perfunctory manner. Heaps of refuse may be seen standing on the streets all day long without lime or any other disinfectant thrown over them. The *bustees* stand in immediate need of looking after, as it is these which breed the disease in the first instance. The increase in the number of sweepers does more harm than good in the absence of proper scavenging and watering.

SOM PRAKASH,
March 27th, 1899.

11. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 5th April draws the attention of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, to the two following matters connected with the City of Murshidabad Municipality:—

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
April 5th, 1899.

(1) The meat which is sold to the Musalmans of the place is mostly obtained by killing diseased goats and cattle. The man whose duty it is to collect fees at the slaughter-house does not care about the condition of the animals slaughtered. The duty of collecting the fees should be entrusted to an officer of the Vaccination Department, and no animal should be allowed to be killed at the slaughter-house which has not been certified to be sound by the Medical Officer of the Lalbagh Hospital.

(2) The dead bodies of Musalmans are now buried anywhere and everywhere within the limits of the city to the prejudice of the public health. This should be prohibited, and the Musalmans compelled to bury their dead in places assigned for the purpose outside the city.

12. The *Pallivasi* of the 5th April condemns the fickleness of the Municipal Commissioners of Kalna in the Burdwan district in establishing a school a short time ago, and abolishing it without giving it a sufficient trial. As the school was being patronised by the middle-class people, the Municipality ought to have maintained it by retrenching expenditure in other directions. A school is certainly a great necessity of the place. The boys who were reading in the school have now been placed in great difficulty.

PALLIVASI,
April 5th, 1899.

13. The *Basumati* of the 6th April says that heaps of letters are being every day received from the mufassal containing complaints of water scarcity and the bad condition of roads. Now that plague is spreading over the whole province, it is the duty of every District Magistrate to devote his entire attention to sanitary improvement. Pure water should be supplied to the villagers, and the roads should be kept in such repair that there may be no

BASUMATI,
April 6th, 1899.

ruts and holes in or near them in which rain water can accumulate and with vegetable matter decomposing in it. Unfortunately, the local authorities seem totally indifferent in the matter. The officials should not allow the District and Local Boards to sleep over the question of sanitation at a time like this.

HITAVADI,
April 7th, 1899.

14. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th April complains that there is a slaughter-house on the Russa Road, a little way off Dr. Ashutosh Mukharji's house, which has proved a source of great nuisance to the neighbourhood.

The owner of the building is a Municipal Commissioner, and that is most probably the reason why the nuisance has not drawn the attention either of the Municipality or of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The sooner the attention of the Municipal authorities is drawn to the nuisance, the better. The slaughter-house has been a standing menace to the health of the neighbourhood, and something must be done at once to remove it.

SANJIVANI,
April 8th, 1899.

15. The *Sanjivani* of the 8th April says that, though the plague has broken out in Calcutta this year in a severer form than it did in 1898, the Municipal authorities are not exerting themselves as vigorously as they did last year to cleanse the town.

Streets and lanes in the native quarter may be seen at any time of the day with sweepings, refuse and rubbish lying heaped up all along their lengths. Nor are prompt measures adopted to disinfect the houses and huts in which plague cases occur. In many cases disinfection is not carried out till some days have passed away after receipt of information, and even then the disinfection is most inadequate. The plague officers never come of their own accord, and sometimes not even on information. A man living in a hut next to the house of a friend of the writer's died of plague at 11 A.M. on the 5th April last. Information was sent to the plague authorities at 3 P.M. the same day. But nobody came to inspect or disinfect up to the evening of the next day. Very different was the attitude of the plague authorities last year.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
April 11th, 1899.

16. The *Barisal Hitaishi* of the 11th April says that, though all those who are wounded in riots, &c., occurring in the Sadar subdivision of the Backergunge district are sent for treatment to the charitable dispensary at Barisal, Government contributes nothing towards the maintenance of that institution except Rs. 50 a month on account of the salary of the Assistant Surgeon in charge of it and the diet expenses of the wounded men referred to.

The pay of the dresser and all other incidental expenses incurred in the treatment of such wounded men, amounting to Rs. 800 a year, have to be paid by the Barisal Municipality. This presses heavily on the Municipality. Rupees 800 a year is not a small sum.

BASUMATI,
April 13th, 1899.

17. The *Basumati* of the 13th April draws attention to the severe water scarcity prevailing in the village Mahanad in the Hooghly district. The few tanks that exist in the village are full of weeds, and their water is therefore undrinkable.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

PRATIVASI,
April 10th, 1899.

18. A correspondent of the *Prativasi* of the 10th April complains of the inconvenience suffered by female passengers on Eastern Bengal State Railway for the want of a waiting room at the Halisahar station. There is no sufficient waiting accommodation also for the male passengers. Again, only one morning up train stops at the Halisahar station. The 15 and the 16 up train should also stop at the station for the convenience of the up passengers.

(h)—*General.*

SOM PRAKASH,
March 27th, 1899.

19. The *Som Prakash* of the 27th March says that it is long since Babu Rajendra Nath Mitra was an Assistant Secretary in the Bengal Secretariat. After Babu Rajendra Nath, the late Babu Bankim Chandra Chatterji was appointed to that post, but his independence soon led to his removal from

it, and the authorities decided never again to give it to any Bengali. Lately the post has been revived, and Mr. L. J. Clarke, Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Jails, has been appointed to it. The writer would have been glad to see a competent Deputy Magistrate in the post. This is the third instance in which Sir John Woodburn has given to a European a post which ought to have gone to a Deputy Magistrate.

20. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th April writes that the Government should extend its protection and patronage to Indian cotton. The Indian cotton mills are faring very ill. The cotton twists turned out by the Bowreah Cotton Mills this year fetched in the market half the price which they fetched last year. It is true that European cotton twists are not bounty-fed, but it is also true that the European weavers, for example, the Manchester weavers, enjoy Government patronage, and laws have been passed in this country, which have handicapped Indian cotton mills in their competition with European cotton mills. It is hoped that the attention of the Government will be drawn to the unsatisfactory condition of the Indian cotton mills.

HITAVADI,
April 7th, 1899.

21. The same paper has the following:—

The new plague regulations. We must admit that the Lieutenant-Governor has issued the new plague regulations after careful and mature deliberation, in order to prevent a panic in the public mind. Our high-minded Lieutenant-Governor is personally inspecting every nook and corner of the town, little caring for the contagion of the epidemic. He is seeing things with his own eyes and comforting the people with hopeful assurances. If we had not a large-minded ruler like Sir John Woodburn placed over our destinies in this crisis, our condition would have been deplorable indeed.

HITAVADI.

But, in spite of the sympathy and consideration of the authorities, we sometimes fear lest the recklessness of the plague officers should lead to unpleasant occurrences. It is not that we have not come across instances of oppression and highhandedness on the part of plague officers. Take the Burrabazar case. The plague officers trespassed into a house where no plague case had occurred, and disregarding the protests of the inmates, forcibly entered the inner apartments on the pretext of disinfecting the house. Another case of a similar nature has come up before the Police Court. Who can say that many such instances of oppression and highhandedness have not taken place without coming to the public notice?

As for the new plague rules regarding the inspection of railway passengers from Calcutta, they are not, in our opinion, likely to produce satisfactory results. According to these rules, passengers who do not go beyond Pandua, or Naihati, or Bongong will not be strictly examined at the starting station. Now, if the plague poison be in this way carried without let or hindrance up to the stations immediately before Pandua and Naihati and Bongong, what is the guarantee that it will not be carried to the next stations? The Government, moreover, has arranged for the medical examination of railway passengers alone; it has made no arrangements for the examination of passengers travelling by boat or any other conveyance. How will the Government prevent infection being carried far and wide by such passengers? To tell the truth, the rules regarding the medical examination of passengers are defective, and are not therefore expected to produce satisfactory results. The multiplication of places for medical examination, moreover, is most likely to lead to oppression and highhandedness.

As for the medical examination of passengers, the rules regarding it are not satisfactory. "If the Medical Officer is of opinion that there are reasonable grounds for believing that any person is likely to convey the infection of plague, he shall cause such person to be removed from the train." A rule like this is most likely to lead to oppression. No one is fully acquainted with the nature and symptoms of the plague, and it is not easy to discover who is conveying the infection of the plague and who is not. The rules in question will lead to the detention of passengers suffering merely from fever, while passengers who have just caught the contagion of the epidemic, but in whose person the symptoms of the disease cannot be discovered, will be allowed to proceed on their journey without let or hindrance.

Again, the Medical Officers have been instructed to examine a passenger by keeping the thermometer in his armpit for not more than 30 seconds. Such a hasty examination will be worse than useless. The fatigue and excitement of a railway journey generally raise the temperature of the body, and a slight rise of the mercury in the thermometer caused by this rise in the temperature of the body ought not to be held as an indication of fever or ill-health. But many passengers quite free from any physical illness may be detained by Medical Officers who will allow themselves to be guided by a hasty medical examination of the nature just described.

Nurses have been appointed for the examination of female passengers, but these nurses have no medical knowledge or experience. The authorities should see that their inexperience and ignorance do not lead to any oppression or inconvenience.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 7th, 1899.

22. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 7th April complains against the Faridganj post-office in the Tippera district. The correspondent generally lives in Cal-

cutta, and the letters he writes home (Faridganj), seldom reach their destination. He made a complaint to the Deputy Postmaster-General, Dacca, and the effect of that has been that the post-office has delivered not one of his letters, except an unpaid letter and a registered letter. The newspapers addressed to Faridganj are seldom received, and many people have, therefore, discontinued subscribing to them. Both the postmaster and the peon have their private business to attend to, and cannot, therefore, devote much time to their official work.

SANJIVANI,
April 8th, 1899.

23. The *Sanjivani* of the 8th April cannot understand why the Government has proposed to appoint a European to the managership of the khas mahal estates in Patna, an office which has been always held by natives.

Native appointments given to Europeans.

Where are the natives to find employment if all the posts which are their due are given away to Europeans? The rulers should not add to the misery and poverty of this poor country by excluding natives from offices under the Government. It is to be hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will see his way to appoint a native in the place of the late native manager.

SANJIVANI.

24. Referring to the case of Walter Love, the soldier in the Madras Presidency who stands charged with rape upon a native girl and culpable homicide not amounting to murder committed upon a native man, the same

Committing of oppression by European soldiers.

paper observes as follows :—

We do not know whether Walter Love shot the man or the man died under an accidental discharge of Love's rifle. We do not also know whether Love actually committed rape upon the girl, or the girl forged the case in order to bring Love into trouble. But shall we be permitted to ask why Love kept his rifle loaded after he had finished hunting? Is it also possible to believe that an Indian girl can be so shameless as to bring a false charge of rape? But we do not wish to discuss these questions. What we want to know is, why are such serious complaints so frequently made against European soldiers? Not one or two, but about two dozen cases occur every year in which European soldiers are charged with serious crimes like theft, murder and rape. The Government has fully realised the evil, and from time to time makes rules with a view of checking them; but all to no purpose.

It is the natural consequence of keeping up a large standing army, recruited from the lowest ranks of society, that its members frequently commit crimes in times of peace. The English soldiers who come out to this country are the scum of English society—men without the least secular, religious or moral education. No wonder that such men should become the slaves of carnal desire, having to pass their days idly, confined in forts and cantonments and separated from their nearest and dearest. The evil is aggravated by allowing these men to escape scot-free or with light punishments when they happen to commit serious crimes. Oppression by English soldiers will not cease so long as they are not, on the one hand, given proper religious education and provided with innocent recreations and amusements, and, on the other, adequately punished for their crimes.

25. The *Bangavasi* of the 8th April complains that on his return journey from Calcutta Pandit Subrahmanya Sastri, the celebrated Vedantist of Benares, was detained in the Chausa camp for nine days, although he was perfectly free from even the touch of disease. He was detained merely on suspicion. Pandit Subrahmanya holds in Hindu society as high a position as the Lord Bishop of Calcutta in Christian society. The authorities should take these things into consideration.

A complaint against the management of the Chausa plague camp.

BANGAVASI,
April 8th, 1899

26. The same paper has the following entitled "First letter to Lord Curzon" :—

BANGAVASI.

"First letter to Lord Curzon." Large-minded Lord Curzon, may you live in peace! May you enjoy, with your wife and children, the salubrious air of Simla! We have loved you since your selection as Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

It is your acts, your sweet words, your writings, which have made us love you with a whole heart. You come of a rich family. You are educated, you are a scholar, you occupy a high position, and yet you have travelled through Asia, like a common traveller, sometimes on foot, sometimes on horseback, sometimes in a boat, sometimes on human shoulders, and sometimes in a railway train. You have scaled hills and mountains. You have crossed impassable deserts. You have ventured into wild forests haunted by ravenous beasts. You have travelled through the ice-bound Pamirs. None could effect greater and more heroic achievements than you have done. When, therefore, you were selected as our Governor-General, we considered ourselves surpassingly lucky. We loved you at once, and our love grew and increased when we remembered that you are acquainted with the ins and outs of India, that you do not come as a stranger to India and its people, that you once came to Calcutta, saw the Scindh and the Panjab, and paid a visit to the Amir of Afghanistan. Then, again, we could not but love you dearly and sincerely when we read your books and came to know that you were an ardent admirer of India and sincerely sympathised with its people—when we came across the following lines towards the end of your immortal work—"The Far East."

"Moral failure alone can shatter the prospect that awaits this country in the impending task of regeneration," and again,

"We sailed wherever ship could sail,
"We founded many a mighty State;
"Pray God our greatness may not fail
"Through craven fears of being great!"

From the day you were selected for the Viceroyalty of India down to the present time, you have delivered many speeches dealing with Indian topics. We learn from these speeches that you will never interfere with our religion; that you will always try your best to promote Indian art and industry; that it will always be your first and foremost care to keep the public treasury continually full and that you will never fail to look after the poor Indian agriculturist and see that he always get two meals a day. When we came to learn all this from your speeches, our love for you grew in depth and ardour.

And now you, the object of our love and sympathy, have left us and gone to Simla, and we can see you no longer. We are sorry that it is so; we are sorry that we could not make a full representation of our wants and grievances to you in time; that we did not give vent to our feelings when you were with us.

We are a conquered people; we are your slaves and it will be sheer impertinence on our part to teach you politics or statesmanship. We have ventured to talk to you about matters political because we cannot help doing so. Of politics there are various grades—high, low and lower. We have no clear idea of the distinction that exists between these grades. We do not know what is high politics and what is common politics. But this we know that for the stability of the Government sympathy between the rulers and the ruled is a *sine quâ non*.

We have said often and again that we sincerely desire the stability of British rule in India. This is why we are thrown into consternation whenever we find discontent growing in the country. There does exist cause for our fear, and we should not make a secret of our feeling. We may be ridiculed

as fools, we may be treated as poor deluded people, we may even be punished for creating disaffection. But we must still give vent to our feelings. We have an experienced and sympathetic ruler in you, O Lord Curzon, and we should not lose this opportunity of acquainting you with our wants and grievances. Come what may, let us do our duty and we shall consider our labour more than recompensed if our payers are heard and if the foundation of the British rule in India is thereby made stronger.

The police, the Deputy Magistrate, the District Magistrate, the jail—these are the chief subjects of our consideration.

The police, *first*. The police is the custodian of the public peace. It is the duty of the police to protect the law-abiding and to punish the law-breakers. The police should, therefore, resemble a sage in appearance. Its doings should be the doings of a saint. It should excel in honesty, purity, self-control and impartiality. The duty of the police is a sacred duty. The Indian people do not know Empress Victoria, they do not know even the Viceroy, or the Lieutenant-Governor, or the Commissioner. They know the police and the police alone, for they come into direct contact with the police.

In the eye of the Indian people, the police is a power high and mighty. When a Sessions Judge acquitted a prisoner, the prisoner's mother, an old village woman, out of the fulness of her heart, prayed to God that he might be promoted to be a *daroga*. There are many such stories told in this country, and all of them show the importance of the police in the eye of the people. To tell the truth, in the eye of the Indian public, the police possesses absolute power—power which there is none to question.

Now, how does this police, which exercises so much influence over the people, conduct itself? O my Lord! a constable, believe us or not, appears to us to be a messenger of death, an incarnation of the d . . . l. He is a life-like picture of anger and lust, vanity and malice, cupidity and ignorance. In fact, the very sight of the red turban and the blue coat would make a whole village fly away in fear. The police may be good and dutiful, but why should public opinion about it be so bad? Why should the people be in dread of those whose duty it is to keep the public peace, to pour water on burning flames?

We are not in the least exaggerating the faults of the Indian police. We plainly say what our impression of the police is. A relative held in high esteem by us once advised us always to avoid contact with, and always to keep at a respectable distance from, a police constable.

Inexhaustible is the catalogue of the doings of the Indian police, and we do not know which of these doings we should relate first. Indeed, a record of the doings of the Indian police will be as vast as the sea, and let us be satisfied with these few preliminary remarks. There are, it is true, good men in the police, just as there may be gods in the company of devils, and saints in the company of fiends. But such good men are few and far between. Lord Curzon! we seek your protection. O save us! protect us!

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 10th, 1899.

27. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 10th April complains that though the work of the Dacca Sadar post-office has considerably increased in consequence of the Manikganj and Narainganj post-offices being brought under its control, neither has the number of clerks in the Sadar post-office been increased, nor have any additions to their salaries been granted to the existing staff. This is extremely unjust considering the large profit which is made by the Postal Department. Not only are the clerks in the Dacca post-office overworked and inadequately paid, but they are fined, brow-beaten and censured for the smallest mistakes. These poor men certainly deserve more justice and sympathy from their superior officers. It is hoped that the new Deputy Postmaster-General will do justice to his subordinates after making a proper enquiry.

PRATIVASI,
April 15th, 1899.

28. The *Prativasi* of the 10th April has the following on Lord Curzon's defence of the Simla exodus:—

Lord Curzon on the Simla exodus. There is no doubt the cool, salubrious air of the hills is eminently conducive to mental and physical vigour. Even the natives of the plains find it difficult to work in the grilling heat of the summer, and far be it from us to doom the Viceroy, born and nurtured as he has been in a cold country, to a life of misery and agony against his will. But, in the present case, is there any choice between living in the plains and living on

the hills? A man cannot but stick to the field of his action. The tiller of the soil must go on ploughing without minding the rain and the sun. If he seeks comfort and pleasure and retires to a cool, sequestered retreat, the whole world will go without food. So in the case of the Viceroy, it will not do to seek philosophic calm and solitude. It is true that his mind is always occupied with serious thoughts, that a heavy weight of responsibility rests upon his shoulders. But the object of his thought is the welfare of his subjects, the removal of their wants and the promotion of their interests. And we fail to understand how the wants and grievances of the people of the plains can be made known to a ruler living on the hills thousands of miles away. The ruler, who holds in his hands the threads of the destinies of a sun-burnt country, cannot well afford to seek the solitude of a hill in order to keep the head cool and the body in full vigour. He as well as we should be satisfied with what little may be done in the plains for the promotion of the welfare of the natives of the plains. The first and foremost duty of a ruler is to personally enquire into the condition of the people, to study their wants and grievances, to listen to their complaints and to try to redress their wrongs. To do this, the ruler must live among the people. His presence on the scene of action is urgently needed. Who knows what evil may come, what danger may happen? And it is not advisable for the ruler to leave the metropolis for the best part of the year and thereby lose his opportunity of acquainting himself with the wants and grievances of the people. It will be a misfortune if even a keen-sighted ruler like Lord Curzon fails to understand this patent fact. Not long ago, when Lord Elgin was away from Calcutta, there was a Musalman riot, jeopardising the safety of the European community. At that time even the *Englishman* found fault with the Simla exodus. It is said that the electric telegraph has annihilated the distance between Calcutta and Simla, but is there no difference between studying a question on the spot and studying it through the electric wire? If a country can be ruled from one end of a telegraph wire, where is the necessity of the Viceroy's coming to India at all?

As soon as the news of the famine of 1873 reached Lord Northbrook's ears, he at once left Simla and came down to Calcutta to consult with the leaders of the country; but during the last famine Lord Elgin ignored the repeated prayers of the people and hurried up to Simla, leaving the plains to their fate. The plague has broken out in Calcutta, and the public have been thrown into fear and anxiety. But Lord Curzon has left the metropolis. How will you blame the public if they regard you as the "mariners" in the "Lotos-eaters" if they think that the object of your going to the hills is—

"In the hollow Lotos-land to live and lie reclined,
On the hills like gods together, careless of mankind.

Where they smile in secret, looking over wasted lands;
Blight and famine, plague and earthquake, roaring deeps and fiery sands;
Clanging fight and flaming towns and sinking ships and praying hands,
But they smile?"

It is no doubt painful for the Viceroy to live in the plains in the grilling heat of the summer. But 'uneasy lies the head that wears the crown.' In the language of Kalidas, a ruler should be like the tree braving the heat, the rain and the storm, and giving shelter to those who seek its protection. He should disregard his own comfort and convenience in order to promote the welfare of his subjects. We would not have said all this if Lord Curzon had not spoken of the sting of conscience. He has come to India professedly with the object of ruling its people well. They, therefore, expect uncommon self-sacrifice from him.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

29. The *Basumati* of the 6th April writes as follows:—

Use of uncivil language in the
Supreme Legislative Council.

Sir James Westland refused to increase the salaries of the ministerial establishments of the civil and criminal courts on the ground that competent

BASUMATI,
April 6th, 1899.

men could be had for Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 a month. He then went on to say:— "The Maharaja of Darbhanga had said that they should increase the salaries of these officers because they have large families. Well, they should try and restrain the growth of their families." Never since the establishment of the Supreme Legislative Council did any official speak in language so barbarous in the presence of Her Majesty's Viceroy and in the presence of the representatives of three hundred millions of Her Majesty's subjects. Every man in the country is grieved and astounded to hear such language from the mouth of the Finance Member. In the country of Hindus, in the very capital of the Sovereign who rules over a Hindu population and standing within the Council Chamber itself, Sir James Westland felt not the least scruple or hesitation in uttering sentiments which a Hindu considers it sinful to entertain in his mind, and with the utmost levity, gave an advice which, in the opinion of the Hindu, can be given only by a *pisach*. May we ask why Sir James himself resigned the Chief Commissionership of Assam, in order to go to New Zealand for the purpose of purchasing a zamindari, and then came back to this country as soon as he got the post of Finance Member? Would he have had to undergo all this trouble, if, when a young man, he had kept in check his procreative proclivities?

Sir James must know that the Indians are born in order only to die. They die of starvation, they die of disease, they die under bullet-shots, they die from rupture of the spleen. Sir James need, therefore, have no fear on the score of increase of population. And what if population increases? Government gains instead of losing by an increase of the number of such subjects as we are. We wear cloth made by British manufacturers, we season our food with salt made in England; we get all our necessities from England. This profits not only the British merchant, manufacturers and artisans, but the British Government too, because, as consumers, we pay the duty on salt, the duty on cloth, the duty on sugar, and, over and above these duties, we pay the income tax.

The Maharaja of Darbhanga contended that the ministerial establishments should get an increase of salary, because the cost of living has considerably increased in the course of the last twenty years. Sir James Westland in reply said that the Indian's cost of living had increased, not on account of any rise of prices, but because the Indians had grown more luxurious. But with what grace did such a reply come from one of the members of that very Government which has made the people of India luxurious? It is the English Government which has made us luxurious by teaching us the English language and English civilisation. Our forefathers wore only coarse cloth and coarse *chudder*, but our boys in the primary schools are taught hygienic lessons about the necessity of wearing unexceptionable clothing and keeping the body carefully covered. We incur ridicule if we enter into a tram-car without a *piran*; our clerks are not allowed to enter an office if not decently dressed and if we would visit a European we must appear in pantaloons, *choga* and *chapkan*. You, Englishmen, being the undisputed lords of this vast empire, we, your fallen and degenerate subjects, have no choice but to learn what you teach us. Do you not see that you are seeking to water a tree at its top after having cut it at its roots?

Trade and commerce are entirely in your hands. We have, therefore, no alternative but to earn our living by service. How shall we live, if you do not give us as much as will enable us to live?

30. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th April has the following:—

HITAVADI,
April 7th, 1899.

'Manuscript eloquence' in the
Legislative Council.

In an article, entitled "Manuscript eloquence," the *Pioneer* animadverted upon the Manner in which discussion is carried on in the Supreme Legislative Council. It concerns the *Pioneer* very much to see that the Hon'ble Members do not excel in the art of debate, but it is not at all thrown into anxiety by the fact that there are Hon'ble Members who are quite innocent of the English language and who get their speeches written and read by others. Is it not a scandal that gentlemen perfectly innocent of English should be nominated to seats in the Legislative Council?

31. The *Bangavasi* of the 8th April thus comments on Sir James Westland's speech at the last meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council:—

Sir James Westland's speech at the last meeting of the Legislative Council.

The Maharaja of Darbhanga spoke of the large family whom every Hindu gentleman has to support, and Sir James Westland with his forty years' experience of India understood a "Hindu family" to consist only of the wife and children of a person. He forgot that in the eye of the Hindu, a "family" bears a much more comprehensive meaning than the "family" of an Englishman. A Hindu's "family" consists not only of his wife and children, but also of his parents and sisters, brothers and their children. But Sir James Westland, the Anglo-Indian financier and political economist, forgot all this and attributed abnormal 'procreative proclivities' to the ministerial officers of the Government. He sang to the tune of Malthus and 'Social Science' and spoke in the manner following in order to discomfit the Maharaja of Darbhanga:—

"One thing is extraordinarily irrelevant, and that is the argument put forward by the Hon'ble the Maharaja of Darbhanga, that we ought to pay these men more, because they have big families. I think they ought to restrain their procreative proclivities."

Such hateful words as these do not bear a translation. In the opinion of the Hindu, the number of children that a man should have is predestined by God. You are at liberty to increase or not the pay of the poor ministerial officers, but why abuse them in this filthy way? Why this attempt to slay the slain? Why this cruelty with a vengeance? You are at liberty to give or not give a handful of rice to the beggar at your door. But why this slap at his cheek? Is not such heartlessness calculated to wound our feelings?

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

32. The *Basumati* of the 6th April has come to know that the European gentleman of the name of Valentine Steer, who lately visited the Bengal Theatre in company with Captain Watson, was no other than Lord Curzon.

The Viceroy *incognito* in a native theatre

It was known that the new Viceroy was going round the town *incognito*, but no one knew that His Excellency would visit a theatre in the same way. His Excellency was pleased with the performance he saw and has recorded his opinion to that effect.

33. The *Darussaltanat* and *Urdu Guide* of the 6th April has the following with reference to the pamphlet entitled *Umahaf-e-Mumenine*:—

A libellous pamphlet.

Mr. Ahmed Shah Shaik, the writer of the libellous pamphlet in question, has created a feeling of disquiet among Her Majesty's Musalman subjects in India. Thinking that the Musalmans will be offended by the attack against the personal character of their Holy Prophet and will take the law into their own hands, he has published the pamphlet at a time when the Government would severely punish the Musalmans if they showed any signs of unrest. Fortunately, most of the learned Maulvis who have come across the pamphlet have burnt it lest it should come into the possession of the Muhammadans and cause an outburst of fanaticism among them.

The pamphlet has really wounded the feelings of the Musalmans, but the writer is sorry to say the Government seems wholly indifferent to their religious feelings.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 15th April, 1899.

BANGAVASI,
April 8th, 1899.

BASUMATI,
April 6th, 1899.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
April 6th, 1899.

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